

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

Meeting Date: January 18, 2006 - KW Division: County Attorney

Bulk Item: Yes X No Department: County Attorney

Staff Contact Person: Bob Shillinger

AGENDA ITEM WORDING:

Approval of payment of hourly rate increase from \$225 per hour to \$250 per hour, retroactive to March 21, 2005, for professional legal services provided by *Ira L. Libanoff, Esq.*

ITEM BACKGROUND:

Ira L. Libanoff, Esq. has represented, and continues to represent, Monroe County in various matters including litigation due to his expertise in construction law.

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOCC ACTION:

CONTRACT/AGREEMENT CHANGES: Change in hourly rate from \$225 to \$250.00.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Approval.

TOTAL COST: \$ **BUDGETED:** Yes No

COST TO COUNTY: \$ **SOURCE OF FUNDS:**

REVENUE PRODUCING: Yes No **AMOUNT PER MONTH** **Year**

APPROVED BY: County Atty X OMB/Purchasing Risk Management

DIVISION DIRECTOR APPROVAL:

John R. Collins 01/03/06

JOHN R. COLLINS, COUNTY ATTORNEY

DOCUMENTATION: Included X Not Required

DISPOSITION:

AGENDA ITEM # L-6

FERENCIK LIBANOFF BRANDT BUSTAMANTE AND WILLIAMS

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

ROBERT E. FERENCIK, JR.
IRA L. LIBANOFF
ALAN C. (PETER) BRANDT, JR.
NESTOR BUSTAMANTE, III
ALEXANDER J. WILLIAMS, JR.
JORDANA L. GOLDSTEIN
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March 21, 2005

RECEIVED

MAR 22 2005

MONROE COUNTY ATTORNEY

John Richard Collins, Esquire
Robert Schillinger, Esquire
Monroe County Attorneys' Office
502 Whitehead Street
Third Floor, Rear
Key West, FL 33040

Re: Monroe County Cases

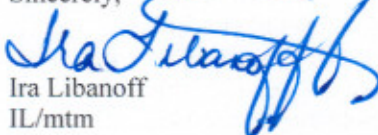
Dear Richard and Bob:

I have enclosed a copy of my firm's billing to Monroe County dated February 10, 2005, which billing is for work performed during the month of January. I had not forwarded this previously as it was my intention to forward it with this letter which I have now have an opportunity to prepare. As you will see, my time that is billed in various matters to the County is billed at the rate of \$225.00 per hour. Three years ago, beginning in 2002, my hourly rate increased to \$250.00 per hour. However, I continue to bill all of my time for existing matters, as well as new matters to Monroe County at the rate of \$225.00 per hour. This year, as a result of increased costs as well as the overall increase of billable rates throughout the legal industry and specifically in relation to construction litigation matters, my hourly rate has been increased to \$275.00 per hour. A review of billable rates for attorneys that have been performing this type of work for as long as I have and have had similar type of experience that I have had would reflect that the \$275.00 per hour rate is actually still low in comparison to many others.

In light of the two increases that have incurred since the last hourly rate increase on the Monroe County matters, I am requesting that you seek and obtain whatever approval may be necessary to increase my hourly rate on the Monroe County matters from \$225.00 an hour to \$250.00 an hour. If you for see a significant issue or problem with respect to that increase, please let me know. If not, please let me know at what point I can implement the increased rate. The rate will in no way be applied retroactively and will be applied solely on a on a going forward basis.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


Ira Libanoff
IL/mtm